



American Citizen Services Unit  
U.S. Embassy Santo Domingo  
Warden Message



**TO:** American Citizens and Consular Wardens

**FROM:** ACS Unit

**DATE:** September 3, 2009

**SUBJECT:** Tropical Storm Erika

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The U.S. Embassy is transmitting the following Warden Message for your information.

The National Hurricane Center's final advisory on Tropical Storm Erika, reports that the storm has degenerated into a remnant low. The storm is expected to pass over the Dominican Republic this weekend. Maximum sustained winds are currently near 30 miles per hour with higher gusts.

The Dominican Republic's National Weather Service (ONAMET) advises that as the storm passes the Dominican Republic, it could produce rainfall amounts of 2 to 4 inches with isolated maximum amounts of 6 inches. Residents and visitors in regions of the north, northeast and east of the Dominican Republic are advised to stay alert to announcements from local authorities, as ONAMET could issue a storm watch or warning, especially if Erika regenerates. Although Erika has weakened in the past 24 hours, rains and wind can still create dangerous surf conditions. ONAMET has issued an alert for nine eastern provinces. American citizens should keep in mind that tides can be deceptive and what appears to be safe water may have a strong undercurrent, even in the absence of large waves. Swimming is not advised during storm conditions. Rivers and streams may be susceptible to flash floods during periods of frequent or intense rain, and some provinces are also at risk for mudslides. ONAMET advises that small craft remain well moored.

U.S. citizens should monitor local radio, the National Weather Service at <http://www.nhc.noaa.gov>, and local media to stay aware of any weather developments in their area. For official information from the Dominican Government regarding weather conditions, please visit the ONAMET website at

<http://www.onamet.gov.do>. The Dominican Emergency Operations Center (COE) website can be found at [www.coe.gov.do](http://www.coe.gov.do) Minor tropical storms can develop into hurricanes very quickly, limiting the time available for a safe evacuation. Travelers should apprise family and friends in the United States of their whereabouts, and keep in close contact with their tour operator, hotel staff, and local officials for evacuation instructions in the event of a weather emergency. Travelers should also protect their travel and identity documents against loss or damage, as the need to replace lost documentation could hamper or delay return to the United States.

The U.S. Embassy will update this warden message if new information becomes available. American citizens should stay current with media coverage of local events and be aware of their surroundings at all times.

American citizens traveling or residing overseas are encouraged to register with the appropriate U.S. Embassy or Consulate on the State Department's travel registration website at <https://travelregistration.state.gov>.

For any emergencies involving American citizens, please contact the American Citizens Services (ACS) Unit of the U.S. Embassy. The Consular Section Embassy is located at the corner of Cesar Nicolas Penson Street and Máximo Gómez Avenue, Santo Domingo, D.R.; telephone 809-731-4294; after hours emergency telephone 809-221-2171; ACS unit fax 809-689-6142; e-mail [acssantodom@state.gov](mailto:acssantodom@state.gov); web page [www.usemb.gov.do](http://www.usemb.gov.do).